Sideburns Too Long, FBI Agent Moved

An FBI agent in the Alexandria field office has been censured by FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and transferred to Indianapolis apparently because Hoover saw a picture of the agent wearing moderately long sideburns in June 5 editions of The Washington Post.

The FBI refused to comment on the case, but unimpeachable sources said they understand the agent, John F. Mullen, will be transferred soon. They said they were told it is because of the picture.

When asked if Mullen will be transferred, John McDermott, agent in charge of the Alexandria field office said, "I have no comment to make in that matter."

Mullen himself could not be reached at his home in Springfield. A child who answered the phone said, "He won't be back for a few days."

JOHN F. MULLEN
. . . hair angered Hoover

In the page one picture by Post photographer Gerald Martineau, Mullen and McDermott are escorting accused airliner hijacker Glen E. Riggs into U.S. magistrate's court in Alexandria.

The right side of Mullen's face is visible and the sideburn appears to extend almost to the bottom of his ear. His hair is slightly tousled. McDermott's gray and receding hair is closely cropped. No side burns are visible.

A third agent is partly visible behind the man in custody. His hair is also closely cut and his sideburns short.

The picture ran in some home delivery editions of The Post and the final street sale edition.

FBI disciplinary transfers became an issue five months ago when a former agent in New York, John F. Shaw, charged that Hoover ordered him sent to the Butte, Mont., field office after Shaw said there were shortcomings in the FBI under Hoover's leadership.

Shaw said he resigned last September rather than accept the new assignment. His resignation was accepted with prejudice, a fact Shaw said prevented him from finding another law enforcement job despite seven years in the bureau.

Shaw made his concession of Hoover's shortcomings in a letter to a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. The letter, however, was written in defense of the FBI, which had been criticized by the professor.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell denied that a subsequent withdrawal of agents from the school was in retaliation for the charge. Hoover, in response to letters from both of Montana's U.S. senators, denounced the charge that Butte is an FBI "doghouse."